

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 12, 15, and 18 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims as shown below. This Listing of Claims will replace prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting the use of an internet protocol address, the method comprising:

- receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;
- acquiring the internet protocol address from the signal;
- acquiring a media access control address specific to the device from the signal;
- generating a second internet protocol address according to the acquired media access control address;
- determining whether the media access control address of the device which sends the signal can be identified from the acquired internet protocol address, according to whether the acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address; and
- sending a message preventing the device from using the acquired internet protocol address when it is determined that the media access control address of the device which sends the signal can be identified from the acquired internet protocol address.~~acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the second~~

~~internet protocol address.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the message indicates that the acquired internet protocol address is duplicated.

4. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing computer-executable process steps for limiting the use of an internet protocol address, the computer-executable process steps comprising:

receiving a signal from a device connected to a network;

acquiring the internet protocol address from the signal;

acquiring a media access control address specific to the device from the signal;

generating a second internet protocol address according to the acquired media access control address;

determining whether the media access control address of the device which sends the signal can be identified from the acquired internet protocol address, according to whether the acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address ; and

sending a message preventing the device from using the acquired internet protocol address when it is determined that the media access control address of the device which sends the signal can be identified from the acquired internet

~~protocol address. acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the  
generated second internet protocol address.~~

5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) The storage medium according to claim 4,  
wherein the message indicates that the acquired internet protocol address is  
duplicated.

7. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for limiting the use of an internet  
protocol address, comprising:

a connection unit configured to connect to a network and receive a signal  
from a device connected to the network;

an acquisition unit configured to acquire the internet protocol address from  
the signal, and a media access control address specific to the device from the  
signal;

an address generation unit configured to generate a second internet  
protocol address according to the media access control address acquired by the  
acquisition unit;

a determination unit configured to determine whether the media access  
control address of the device which sends the signal can be identified from the  
acquired internet protocol address, according to whether the acquired internet  
protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address;

and

a message generation unit configured to generate a message preventing the device from using the acquired internet protocol address when it is determined that the media access control address of the device which sends the signal can be identified from the acquired internet protocol address~~acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address~~; and

a sending unit configured to send the message to the device.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the sending unit sends the message indicating that the acquired internet protocol address is duplicated for preventing the device from using the acquired internet protocol address.

10. (Currently Amended) A method for limiting data transfer from a first network to a second network, the method comprising:

receiving a signal with a destination address corresponding to a first device connected to the first network from a second device connected to the second a network;

acquiring an internet protocol address from the signal;

acquiring a media access control address specific to the second device

from the signal;

generating a second internet protocol address according to the acquired  
~~media acquired~~ access control address;

determining whether the media access control address of the second  
device can be identified from the acquired internet protocol address, according to  
whether the acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated  
second internet protocol address; and

sending a message preventing the second device from using the acquired  
internet protocol address and limiting transfer of the signal when it is determined  
that the media access control address of the second device can be identified  
from the acquired internet protocol address; and ~~the acquired internet protocol~~  
~~address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address.~~

transmitting the signal to the first network when it is determined that the  
media access control address of the second device cannot be identified from the  
acquired internet protocol address.

11. – 12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) A storage medium storing computer-executable  
process steps for limiting data transfer from a first network to a second network,  
the computer-executable process steps comprising:

receiving a signal with a destination address corresponding to a first  
device connected to the first network, from a second device connected to a

network;

acquiring an internet protocol address from the signal;

acquiring a media access control address specific to second the device  
from the signal;

generating a second internet protocol address according to the acquired  
media access control address;

determining whether the media access control address of the second device can  
be identified from the acquired internet protocol address, according to whether  
the acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second  
internet protocol address;~~and~~

sending a message preventing the second device from using the acquired  
internet protocol address and limiting transfer of the signal when it is determined  
that the media access control address of the second device can be identified  
from the acquired internet protocol address; and acquired internet protocol  
address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address.

transmitting the signal to the first network when it is determined that the  
media access control address of the second device cannot be identified from the  
acquired internet protocol address.

14. – 15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for limiting data transfer from a first  
network to a second network, comprising:

a connection unit configured to connect to ~~to a~~ the first network and the second network and receive a signal with a destination address corresponding to the first device connected to the first network, from a second device connected to the second network;

an acquisition unit configured to acquire an internet protocol address from the signal, and a media access control address specific to the second device from the signal;

an address generation unit configured to generate a second internet protocol address according to the acquired media access control address;

a determination unit configured to determine whether the media access control address of the second device can be identified from the internet protocol address acquired from the signal, according to whether acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address; ~~and~~

a limiting unit configured to limit transfer of the signal, and send a message preventing the second device from using the acquired internet protocol address when it is determined that the media access control address of the second device can be identified from the acquired internet protocol address; ~~and acquired internet protocol address corresponds to the generated second internet protocol address.~~

a transmission unit configured to transmit the signal to the first network when it is determined that the media access control address of the second device cannot be identified from the acquired internet protocol address.

17. – 18. (Canceled)